



# Flying Fish Report 2014-2024

## Welcome!

Since 2014, 2676 pupils from 109 Primary 6 classes in 64 schools have participated in the Flying Fish project.

Flying Fish aims to increase children's awareness of the importance of their local river through a **Meet Your River** day.

Flying Fish is delivered by the **Clyde River Foundation**, a registered Scottish charity which researches the ecology of the Clyde and its tributaries, and promotes public engagement and environmental education throughout the catchment. The project is funded recurrently by **Glasgow Airport's FlightPath Fund** which supports charities and community groups working in the local community. The participating schools are all under the Glasgow Airport flight path.

Raising environmental awareness will lead to a better understanding of problems affecting their local environment - the children are our **"Future Stewards"**. We want Flying Fish to lead to a life-long interest in the local environment and its conservation and protection. Learning about their local river and its aquatic life will hopefully leave the children with a lasting, positive attitude towards it. The river trip takes the children to meet the inhabitants of **their local river**.



Pupils gain practical science skills in a pop-up laboratory.



Pupils investigate their own kick sample, identifying invertebrates, and discovering what might impact the health of their local river.



## Flying Fish

Outdoor learning and first-hand experiences are at the core of Flying Fish.

The Clyde River Foundation is uniquely qualified to deliver both — **we have spent over 20 years working in or around these rivers**. Pupils visit their local river and measure its health in the same way scientists do.



Pupils get first-hand experience with fish!

The children see an electro-fishing demonstration and learn to identify different trees, map the site and take kick samples in the river.

Their kick sample is taken to a pop-up laboratory in the classroom, where the pupils sort and identify the bugs and beasties present; we can tell a lot about the health of the river from the animals that live there!

At the end of the project, each school receives a custom made poster of their day.



Pupils get the chance to see fish being caught in an electrofishing demonstration.





**Pupils finding out how trees make trout, investigating different leaves.**



**Pupils mapping the site of their local river, learning about invasive plants.**



**Future Stewards questioning how many fish are in their local river during an introductory talk.**

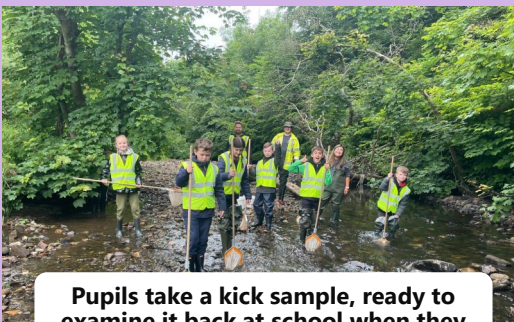
"I loved seeing **different types of fish**"  
- Pupil, Kirklandneuk Primary

"I loved **answering questions**" - Pupil,  
Westerton Primary

"I like that they let us **look down the microscope** that was so cool" - Pupil,  
Kirklandneuk Primary

## Curriculum for Excellence Outcomes

"The day was also structured in a way that **allowed children to see a complete scientific process** and addressed a few CfE Experiences and Outcomes along the way! It was great to see them **collecting information and data, analyse that and then use it for a purpose.**" - Teacher, Westerton Primary

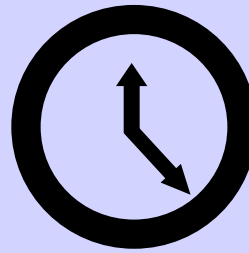


**Pupils take a kick sample, ready to examine it back at school when they sort and identify the invertebrates.**



## What pupils wished for...

We invited each pupil to suggest a "wish" for the project, letting us know how they thought it could be developed in the future. We received 134 wishes from the pupils at the three schools we visited this year.



### More!

43% of wishes were about spending more time at the river, spending a longer time doing the activities, having more activities, or even doing the day again!

### Impractical

13% of wishes were things that can't happen due to safety or time constraints e.g. pupils electrofishing or going into deeper water.



### Positive

11% of wishes said nothing should change about the project, or were a positive comment instead. For example, one pupil said "I don't have a wish, it's perfect how it is!"

### Everything Else

33% of the pupils who gave wishes were unsure what they would change, or explained something else they might like, for example to keep a lab coat or have somewhere to sit at the river.





## Pupil Feedback



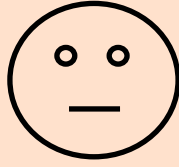
A Flying Fish day consists of nine activities. At the completion of the project, every participant is asked to rate their overall experience and to provide detailed feedback on individual activities. For Flying Fish 2024, we received feedback from 152 pupils. They rated the experience using smiley faces:



56.0%



37.3%



5.3%



1.3%

Each pupil was invited to give two "star" comments, to tell us their favourite things about the Flying Fish project! We received 275 star comments.

### GOING IN THE RIVER

13% of comments let us know that pupils "loved going in the water", during the kick sampling and hand search for invertebrates.



### SEEING FISH / ELECTROFISHING

9% of the comments were about getting to see fish during the electrofishing demonstration. One pupil said "I liked how we saw you catch fish".



### INVERTEBRATE SAMPLING

20% of pupils "loved getting samples of bugs that fish eat", commenting on getting the chance to take a kick sample and do a hand search for invertebrates in the river.



### LOOKING AT INVERTEBRATES

24% of the comments told us pupils "liked going into class and searching for bugs" during the pop-up lab, where pupils search for and identify invertebrates.



### CRAFT ACTIVITY

6% of the comments explained pupils "really liked the arts and crafts". Each pupil got to create their own imitation fishing fly of a caseless caddisfly larva.



### MAPPING THE RIVER

3% of the comments told us that the "site mapping was good". Each pupil got the chance to draw their own map of the site.



### TREE SAFARI

4% of comments let us know pupils also enjoyed "exploring the trees and flowers", learning about how trees are important to river habitats.



### SOMETHING ELSE

21% of comments wanted to let us know that the day was "loads of fun" with pupils giving generally positive comments, or letting us know something else that was great about the day.



**"it was just AMAZING!"**

- Pupil, Kirklandneuk Primary

## Teacher Feedback

"All activities had the children engaged and all children participated in all tasks.

**The learning covered Es and Os related to learning about the local area** and looked at many science outcomes related to biological systems. **A fantastic experience from start to finish."**

"Pupils loved being able to take part in each of the hands on activities. The Clyde River Foundation Staff were excellent [...] It is **a fantastic way to encourage learners to get into science** and be outdoors."

"The practical activities were fantastic and **supported children in developing a range of transferrable skills**. They were engaged from start to finish. It was amazing to see the excitement for science and **made me appreciate the resources we have for science and outdoor education (such a short distance away!)"**

"Children were very engaged in morning session. Loved the kick sampling and invertebrate sorting/microscope. **They now understand the river better, its inhabitants and the importance of the eco-system."**

**"Flying Fish has had a positive impact on the school and community.** The pupils loved going to the River Kelvin and participating with the outdoor and active learning activities. The project influenced my decision and **I would now take the children down to the River more often."**

"Pupils were very motivated to learn both in and out of the classroom. They enjoyed being scientists for the day! **Everything was very well organised.** All activities were well thought out and prepared, with lots of resources."

## Flying Fish 2024-25

This year, classes from Westerton, St John Ogilvie and Kirlandneuk primary schools took part in Flying Fish.

In **2024/2025**, we hope to deliver Flying Fish to Primary 6 children from the following primary schools:

Auchenlodment Primary	Killermont Primary
Bargarran Primary	Lochfield Primary
Brediland Primary	St Catherine's Primary
Bushes Primary	St Fergus Primary
Dargavel Primary	St Pauls Primary
Fordbank Primary	Thorn Primary
Glencoats Primary	West Primary
Houston Primary	Williamsburgh Primary
Howwood Primary	Woodlands Primary

## Funding Flying Fish

We are grateful for financial support from **Glasgow Airport's FlightPath Fund**, which has been our major funder and has allowed us to deliver Flying Fish to **109 classes since 2014**. If you are interested sponsoring this fantastic project, please contact us at : [info@clyderiverfoundation.org](mailto:info@clyderiverfoundation.org)



**Pupils excited to be at the river, getting the chance to meet their local fish!**

## THANK YOU!

The Clyde River Foundation would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our participating schools and project supporters for making Flying Fish possible. We are grateful to all of our funders since 2014:



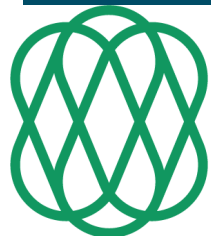
W.A. Cargill Fund



THE HUGH FRASER FOUNDATION

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Oighreachd a' Chrùin Alba **Garfield Weston River Kelvin** FOUNDATION Angling Association

Contact the Clyde River Foundation (Scottish Charity No. SC029602):  
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